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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 AND 9 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A handover method for ~~carrying out a handover procedure in a~~ radio communications system having a first transmitting/receiving unit, a second transmitting/receiving unit and further transmitting/receiving transceiver units, comprising:
  - ~~switching a radio link connecting a mobile station and the first transmitting/receiving unit, to the second transmitting/receiving unit,~~
  - ~~sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transmitting/receiving unit in order to set up a connection to the second transmitting/receiving unit, which handover signaling message contains a code word identifying a handover procedure, the code word having a value corresponding to a handover code which is reserved for handover procedures in the radio communications system, the handover signaling message being sent via a physical channel, which also carries signaling messages for setting up a radio link to the radio communications system,~~
  - ~~checking the code word at one of the further transmitting/receiving units, when a signaling message is received on the physical channel with a code word, the code word being checked to determine whether the value thereof corresponds to the handover code and decide whether the signaling message should or should not be regarded as a handover signaling message, and~~
  - ~~identifying the signaling message received at the one of the further transmitting/receiving stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code words~~signaling a mobile station and the second transceiver unit from the radio communications system to indicate that a handover is to occur, the second transceiver unit being a neighboring transceiver unit to the first transceiver unit;
  - sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transceiver unit in order to set up a connection to the second transceiver unit, the handover signaling message being sent via a channel that carries signaling messages for requesting a radio link, the handover signaling message containing a codeword differentiating the handover signaling

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message from signaling messages for requesting a radio link;

checking the code word at the second transceiver unit and at one of the further transceiver units to determine whether a handover signaling message or a signaling message for requesting a radio link has been received;

identifying the received signaling message at the one of the further transceiver stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code word, the one of the further transceiver units not having received the signaling from the radio communications system indicating that the handover is to occur;

ignoring, on the basis of the identification of the received message by the one of the further transceiver units, the handover signaling message; and

proceeding with the handover at the second transceiver unit based on the code word and the signaling from the radio communications system..

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
the handover code is stored in each of the transmitting/receiving units,  
the value of the code word received with a signaling message is compared with the handover code stored in each of the further transmitting/receiving units,  
if the value of the code word matches the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein  
the handover code comprises a number of values,  
the value of a code word received with a signaling message is compared to the values of the handover code, and  
if the value of the code word matches one of the values of the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein  
the handover code comprises a number of values,  
the value of a code word received with a signaling message is compared to the values of the handover code, and  
if the value of the code word matches one of the values of the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

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5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein  
the mobile station receives from the radio communications system a command to initiate  
the handover procedure, which command contains information about the second  
transmitting/receiving unit and identifies the handover procedure,

the radio communications system transmits information about the handover procedure to  
the second transmitting/receiving unit, and

further transmitting/receiving units which receive the handover signaling message from  
the mobile station check whether the code word contained therein has a value matching the  
handover code and, if the value matches the handover code, the further transmitting/receiving  
units reject the handover signaling message.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein

the mobile station receives from the radio communications system a command to initiate  
the handover procedure, which command contains information about the second  
transmitting/receiving unit and identifies the handover procedure,

the radio communications system transmits information about the handover procedure to  
the second transmitting/receiving unit, and

further transmitting/receiving units which receive the handover signaling message from  
the mobile station check whether the code word contained therein has a value matching the  
handover code and, if the value matches the handover code, the further transmitting/receiving  
units reject the handover signaling message.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of  
the transmitting/receiving units is a base station.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the  
transmitting/receiving units is a base station.

9. (currently amended) A handover method for a radio communications system having  
first, second and further transceiver units, comprising:

signaling a mobile station and the second transceiver unit from a ~~controller~~radio  
communications system to indicate that a handover is to occur;

sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transceiver  
unit in order to set up a connection to the second transceiver unit, the handover signaling

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message being sent via a channel, which also carries signaling messages for requesting a radio link, the handover signaling message containing a ~~codeword~~code word differentiating the handover signaling message from signaling messages for requesting a radio link;

checking the code word at one of the further transceiver units to determine whether a handover signaling message or a signaling message for requesting a radio link has been received;

identifying the signaling message at the one of the further transceiver stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code word; and

proceeding with the handover at the second transceiver unit based on the code word and signaling from ~~the controller~~radio communications system.